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MANCHESTER

SCHOOL OF DESIGN,

IN CONNECTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL OF DESIGN,
SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON.

THE

MASTER'S REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

OF THE

ATTENDANCE, PROGRESS, ETC., OF THE STUDENTS

OF THE

MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF DESIGN,

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 25TH MARCH, 1845.

MANCHESTER :

PRINTED BY CHARLES SIMMS AND CO.

1845.

REPORT.

Number of Students on the Books	148
Fees received from the above	£37
Number of Students entered during the Quarter.....	29
Number of Students who left at the commencement of the Quarter	23

MORNING CLASS.

Greatest number who have attended on any one Morning	51
Smallest ditto ditto	23
Average attendance during the Quarter	40

EVENING CLASS.

Greatest number who have attended on any one Evening..	93
Smallest ditto ditto	42
Average attendance during the Quarter	75

The attendance during the Quarter has been occasionally very irregular; at times every place being occupied, and at others the number present has been very small, as will be seen on reference to the above statement. Nor is the average attendance, particularly in the Evening Class, so high as it ought to be at this season of the year. The attendance of the

Students, whose names are given herewith, together with an analysis of the times they have been present during the quarter, has been so bad, that I now report them to the Council in order that they may reprimand or dismiss them as examples to others. I shall, however, in future strictly enforce the 14th Rule, and beg to recommend that a printed form be adopted for giving notice to Students, their parents, or masters, as the case may require, when any one attends so irregularly as to justify complaint.

The general conduct of the Students has been very satisfactory, and in the Elementary Classes they have been industrious and attentive. Several of the senior Students, however, have not displayed that desire to grapple with the difficulties which the real objects of the School involve, namely, the attainment of a proper knowledge of the elementary principles of Ornamental Design, the necessity for which I have endeavoured on all occasions to point out to them; and my anxiety on this head induced me to deliver an address, chiefly intended for the more advanced Students, on the study of the history, principles, and practice of Ornamental Art, and which the Council thought proper to publish. In this address I endeavoured to simplify the course of study required to make a good Ornamentist, and to furnish a key for a course of reading on the subject, as well as to show the importance of the knowledge it is the especial object of this School to give; and though I trust this effort is not thrown away, and will yet be useful as the importance of Ornamental Art becomes more recognised, yet it would be unwise to conceal the fact that it is to the junior Students the Council must look for the wished-for results in the education of really clever and intelligent Designers; but in order that nothing shall be wanting to the progress of those senior Students who really desire to become Ornamentists, I have, at the request of the Council, made arrangements for orally demonstrating the principles of Design

as based on an analysis of natural forms and the leading features of every style of ornament; tracing the source of each style in its various combinations to its original type in nature. This, it is hoped, will give increased facilities to the earnest and industrious Student, and stimulate those who are less energetically inclined. This, however, will never supply the place of original thought, invention, and imagination, nor that of earnest study and research in the Student himself. In connection with this point, I am happy to report that the works in the Lending Library have been hitherto eagerly sought after by those Students to whom I deemed the privilege would be valuable; so much so, that its extension, both as regards the number of books and Students allowed to use them, will be desirable at an early period.

The Classes now comprise every branch of study contemplated in the system of instruction. They are as follows:—

Class for the Study of the Principles and Practice of Ornamental Design	13
Modelling Class.....	5
Students Painting from Nature and the Ornamental Cast.	9
The Figure.—Elementary.....	4
Drawing in Chalk from the Cast	4
Shading in Indian Ink from the Cast	4
Shading in Chalk from the Flat	8
Shading in Indian Ink from the Flat	9
Drawing Outline	118

The working of these Classes with the present accommodation is, however, a source of constant anxiety to myself. The Class for Painting ought now to embrace all the Students of the Class for the study of the practice of Design, who can attend the Morning School; but there is scarcely room for the present Painting Class, and these are much inconvenienced and could not undertake any work of importance. To remedy this in some measure, several Students are painting in Grisaille

in the Evening, alternately with other studies, but it is quite impossible for them to paint Flowers, which ought to be their subjects, by gas-light. Several of the Students who attend the Morning Class only, will soon be required to draw from the larger examples of the Ornamental Cast, but the present Figure room is quite useless by day-light. The Modelling Class, too, will soon want more extended accommodation. Under these circumstances the Council will see the necessity for limiting the number of Students so that the Upper Classes can be efficiently worked, which is nearly impossible at present ; and, in any contemplated arrangement for additional accommodation, I may perhaps be allowed to suggest that convenience, as regards light for day-study, should be kept in view as well as more space.

The number of Candidates now on the Book is 124.

During the summer months a supply of flowers, plants, &c. will be required for the Painting Class, as also specimens of the larger and more characteristically marked wild plants for the Modelling Class.

The List of Prizes drawn up at the request of the Council and submitted herewith for approval or alteration, has been made with reference to the present capabilities of the Students. How far the Council may deem it expedient to follow the plan of last year, is for them to decide ; but as regards the manufacturing designs I would respectfully suggest that no Student should be allowed to compete for any prize unless his previous study in the School has been such as to fit him for the competition ; and for the Class Prizes, that each Student should compete in his own Class or Classes, and none other. If this plan is not followed, offering prizes is calculated to injure the pupil by distracting his attention from his immediate course of study.

Several of the junior Students have made engagements with practical Designers, &c. during the past Quarter, chiefly through

their connection with this School, and I am happy to report that others have been stimulated to exertion by my promise to recommend them to gentlemen who have applied to me for youths, when their progress should justify me in doing so.

Several applications have also been made for young men competent to undertake the duties of designers to calico printers, in which remuneration was stated as a secondary consideration ; but at present I could not conscientiously recommend any one, and as this is the point of usefulness to which I am most desirous to see this School brought as early as possible, the Council will excuse my anxiety with reference to the present position of some of the senior Students, and if this Report is not so favourable on that point as could be wished, yet as representing the true position of an important Class, in the School, I could not report otherwise than I have done, consistently with my duty to the Council, the Students, and myself.

GEO. WALLIS,

PRINCIPAL MASTER.

MARCH 26TH, 1845.

PRIZES

TO BE GIVEN FOR

Original Designs, Models, and Drawings,

TO BE PREPARED AND SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL PRIOR TO THE VACATION IN AUGUST NEXT.

MANUFACTURING DESIGNS.

1. For the best design for a six-coloured Mousseline de Laine, on a blue ground,—black, orange, two reds, and green.
2. For the second best ditto ditto.
3. For the best design for a Calico Print, in a single colour.
4. For the second best ditto ditto.
5. For the best design for a Furniture Print, the repeat not to be less than twelve inches by eight inches.
6. For the best design for a Paper-Hanging for a drawing-room, to be printed in not more than six colours.

CLASS PRIZES. — PAINTING CLASS.

1. For the best Arabesque in oil or tempera, being an Original composition. Size, not less than four feet six inches by three feet.
2. For the second best ditto ditto.
3. For the best painting in tempera of Flowers from nature.
4. For the second best ditto ditto.
5. For the best Painting in Grisaille, in tempera.

MODELLING CLASS.

1. For the best model of a Frieze, from a design to be furnished by the master.
2. For the best model from Nature.
3. For the best model from the Ornamental Cast.

DRAWINGS.

1. For the best drawing in Chalk from the Ornamental Cast.
2. For the second best ditto ditto.
3. For the best drawing in Indian ink or Sepia, from the Ornamental Cast.
4. For the second best ditto ditto.
5. For the best drawing in Chalk from the Lithograph.
6. For the second best ditto ditto.
7. For the best drawing in Indian ink or Sepia, from the Lithograph.
8. For the second best ditto.

ELEMENTARY CLASSES.

1. For the best outline from the Class Copies, ranging *above* No. 40.
2. For the second best ditto ditto.
3. For the best outline from the Class Copies, ranging *below* No. 40.
4. For the second best ditto ditto.

Conditions of the Competition for Prizes.

1. The original designs and paintings to be commenced on 1st May, models and drawings on 1st June, and outlines on 1st July. All the designs, drawings, etc., to be completed and delivered by the 1st of August next.

2. Every student who has been in the school three months, (unless disqualified by rule 14) will be required to execute a design or drawing in each class to which he belongs; but no student will be permitted to compete out of his own class or classes.

3. Students may execute more than one design for manufactures; but not compete with more than *three*, nor be allowed to take more than one prize in each separate competition.

4. No student can receive more than one first class prize; but he may receive a second class prize, if found deserving of it.

5. Prizes will not be adjudged in cases where the productions submitted may be considered of insufficient merit. (See rule 16.)

6. The designs, drawings, and other productions for which prizes have been awarded, will be retained by the council for exhibition in the school.

By order of the Council,

GEORGE WALLIS, Prin. Master.

March 27, 1845.

Charles Simms and Co., Printers, Manchester.